

**REMARKS**

Claims 7, 11-13, 17, and 18 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 10, 14, and 16 have been canceled.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 7 and 13 have been objected to because of some informalities.

In view of this, amendments have been made to these claims to overcome this objection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

(a) Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seifert (US 2004/0068543) in view of Malik (US 2002/0065891). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to claim:

selecting means for selectively accepting one of,

- (a) only the registered partial address of the transmission permissible address,
- (b) only the registered partial address of the receiving address, and
- (c) the registered partial address of the transmission permissible address and the registered partial address of the receiving address,

by inhibiting transmission of data to the address, input by the input unit, containing no registered partial address.

Independent claim 13 has also been amended in a similar manner. This feature is shown, at least in Figs. 21 and 22 of the present application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the Malik reference discloses a controller which is capable of performing an operation of accepting only an address containing the partial address registered in the storing unit from the input unit, and transmits the email . . . only if a domain name extracted from the address is in the domain name database.

Further, upon rejecting claim 8, the Examiner alleges that Seifert discloses a controller that is capable of interrupting data transmission, when a received address contains no partial address registered in the storing unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming that the Examiner's interpretation of the cited references is reasonable, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, modify Seifert such that transmission of data is prohibited to addresses not registered as the transmission permissible address as well as to addresses registered as the receiving address, and would not conceive, the "selecting means," as recited in claim 1.

Claim 13 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 7.

Claim 11, dependent on claim 7, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 7.

Claim 17, dependent on claim 13, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 13.

Claims 8, 10, 14, and 16 have been canceled.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 12 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seifert in view of Malik, and further in view of Nishida et al. (USP 6,972,858). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12, dependent on claim 7, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 18, dependent on claim 13, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 13.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

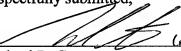
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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